

We are pleased to present the June issue of the Mayor's International Newsletter, which contains updates on various City of Houston international initiatives, including those related to the seven Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils, as well as a complete international event calendar.

### Mayor Bill White



May 5 — Mayor Bill White met with the Netherlands Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Christian Kröner, who came to Houston to attend the Offshore Technology Conference. Mayor White thanked Ambassador Kröner for his visit, and for the Embassy's support of the 2007 City of Houston Business Development Mission to the Netherlands. He reflected on the strong bonds that Houston has forged with cities in the Netherlands, as well as those between the Ports of Houston, Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Mayor White also proclaimed Ambassador Kröner an honorary citizen and a goodwill ambassador of Houston.

### Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Garcia

May 7—Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member Adrian Garcia held a courtesy visit with the Mayor of Dongying, China, the Honorable Zhang Jianhua. The city of Dongying, like Houston, is a major energy center, and it is home to the famous Shengli oil field — one of China's largest. Mayor Zhang and Mayor Pro Tem Garcia recognized the partnership between Houston and Dongying and discussed ways to expand business ties and promote future cooperation.



### Council Member Ronald Green



May 2-11—Council Member Ronald Green joined a delegation from the University of Houston's Bauer College of Business Executive MBA program on a two nation, two city tour of Singapore and Shanghai, China. The objective of the trip was to introduce degree seekers to the cross-cultural dimensions of international business. Council Member Green was joined on this trip by Former Houston City Council Member Carol Alvarado, as well as Mr. Terence Fontaine and Mr. Issa Dadoush from the City of Houston.

### Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Hall



May 5—Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Hall hosted a high-ranking delegation of executives from Sinopec, one of the three largest Chinese oil and gas firms. Mr. Hall encouraged the delegation to look for opportunities to expand their business presence in Houston.

May 15—Chief Administrative Officer Anthony Hall hosted a delegation from Daqing, China, led by Vice Mayor Li Pilong. Daqing is home to China's largest oil producing field, and, like Houston, is a member of the World Energy Cities Partnership. Mr. Hall asked the delegation to return to Houston in the future and meet with local companies to promote business ties.



# Mayor's Office of International Affairs & Development (MOIAD)

We are pleased to offer you an updated list of accomplishments made by Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Development from January 1, 2008—May 31, 2008:

## **I. International Cooperation Agreements Signed (1):**

- Nanhui District of Shanghai, China (Medical Services)



## **II. Inbound Delegations Received (41):**

The MOIAD has welcomed international delegations from the following regions:

- |                   |                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| • China           | • Nigeria         | • Scotland  |
| • Mexico          | • Pakistan        | • Singapore |
| • The Netherlands | • The Philippines | • Taiwan    |

## **III. Outbound Delegations Initiated / Supported (21):**

- 10 completed
- 11 planned

## **IV. Student Internships (15)**

## **MIADC—International Frontier**

*The Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council is comprised of local leaders who are dedicated to promoting Houston on the international stage. This month we feature Dr. Steve Ams.*

Dr. Steve Ams was elected to serve as chairman of MIADC-Africa during the 2008-2009 term. He has expressed his interest to help the City strengthen its economic and cultural ties with Africa.

Dr. Ams is a physician and a theologian as well as the CEO of Global Interests, LLC, an international trade and investment firm located in Houston. His firm handles a diversified portfolio of development projects, which include humanitarian medical missions, housing developments, oil and gas production, and refining in West Africa.

Through his church, the Chapel of Praise, Dr. Ams has initiated several city-wide outreach programs to aide the poor and the working class. The one held at the Brown Convention Center in 2000 provided food and clothing

assistance to 1,800 homeless people and held a job fair for 3,500 people. After Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Ams had mobilized a large cadre of medical resources to aide Katrina victims, an endeavor for which he has received a certificate of Congressional recognition.

In December 2003, Dr. Ams led a team of U.S. doctors, pharmacists, nurses and dentists on a three-day medical mission to Plateau State in Nigeria, where they provided assistance to more than 2,200 people. Over \$3,000,000 in medical supplies and services were donated for that mission.

Dr. Ams envisions a future of strong connections between Houston and Africa. "Our Committee will initiate several exciting projects, and I look forward to working with groups such as the Consular Corps of Houston, Greater Houston

Partnership, and Port of Houston Authority to achieve our goals. Implementation of the *African Growth and Opportunity Act* (AGOA) is my highest priority for expanding trade and investment between Houston businesses and Africa," indicated Dr. Ams.

AGOA was enacted in May 2000 to facilitate trade between the U.S. and countries in sub-Saharan Africa through such means as extending preferential treatment to imports from eligible countries, which are implementing market reforms measures.

Dr. Ams is married to Pastor Joy Ams, and they have three sons.

—Mary Jane Wakefield  
With Assistance from Ken Bolton



# Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils

In this issue, we would like to introduce you to MIADC's seven new chairs, each representing one of MIADC's regional Councils.

## Africa—Dr. Steve Ams



Dr. Ams is the CEO of Global Interests, LLC. He was born in Nigeria and educated there. After graduating from medical school, he had practiced medicine before departing on a world-wide evangelistic journey, which led him to Houston where he established the Chapel of Praise church. He has since obtained Masters degrees in Hebrew, Greek and theology.

## Americas—Mr. Marco Bracamontes



Mr. Bracamontes is a marketing communications professional who designs programs to bridge across cultural borders. A native of Mexico, Mr. Bracamontes has developed sponsored television programs for international broadcasting companies. He is the founder and President of the Houston-Tampico Sister City Association, a non-profit organization. Currently, Mr. Bracamontes is in charge of communications and community relations for Harris County Precinct 2.

## Asia / Australia—Ms. Linda Toyota



Ms. Toyota is the Sr. Vice President of Development at Houston Technology Center. A native of Ohio, she holds a Masters degree in Education and a Nonprofit Executive Certificate from the University of Houston. She has recently completed her chairmanship of Leadership Houston as the first Asian women to lead the organization. Ms. Toyota serves on the board of the Association of Fundraising Professionals-Houston and chairs the Diversity and Community Outreach Committee.

## Canada—Ms. Charlene Ripley



Ms. Ripley is the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for Linn Energy, LLC. She received her Law Degree from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. She is a member of the Texas State Bar, Law Society of Alberta, Texas General Counsel Forum (board member), Canadian Bar Association, the Executive Women's Partnership of the Greater Houston Partnership, and the Women's Energy Network.

## Europe—Mr. Andrew Pidgirsky



Mr. Pidgirsky is a partner in the Houston office of Adams and Reese LLP. He received law degrees from Southern Methodist University School of Law and from Ivan Franko University School of Law (Lviv, Ukraine). Mr. Pidgirsky is affiliated with several industry and business associations, including, Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, Greater Houston Partnership, Houston Export Academy, and Houston District Export Council.

## Middle East / North Africa—Mr. F.D. Baysal



Mr. Baysal obtained a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Robert's College in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1977 and a M.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University in 1978. He is the President and CEO of Seba International, LTD, an international steel trading company. Mr. Baysal also serves as chairman of the Turkish American Association for Business,

## South Asia—Mr. Jagat Kamdar



Mr. Kamdar has 38 years of combined experience in engineering, medical practice management systems and consulting. He is a past chair of the United Way agency for South-Asian countries, past president of the Indo American Charity Foundation of Houston and founding member of the South Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Indo American Political Action Committee, Chamber of Commerce, and board member of the M.S. University Alumni Foundation of North America.

## Mayor's International Affairs & Development Councils

### Americas

April 28—The Council elected officers for the 2008-2009 term. Before the elections, Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Garcia attended the meeting and spoke briefly. The speaker, Mr. Jorge Franz, Director of Tourism for the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, informed members about ongoing international initiatives in the Latin American market.

### Asia / Australia

May 19—The Council held its first quarterly meeting in 2008. The Honorable Tsutomu Osawa, Consul General of Japan, and Mr. Jorge Franz, Director of Tourism for the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, were invited guests. Members discussed 2008 projects and goals.

### Canada

May 12—The Council held its second quarterly meeting and discussed projects for 2008. Ms. Charlene Ripley, the 2008 Chair, announced that she would travel to Calgary, Canada, and there meet with the Council's Canadian counterparts. City Council Member Sue Lovell attended the meeting and expressed her support for the Council's projects.

### Meeting of the 7 Regional Chairs

May 28—The seven chairs representing MIADC's seven regions met to discuss their projects for 2008. The chairs identified several exciting initiatives and areas for collaboration, including an international city matrix, comparing Houston to other major cities.

## International Event Calendar -- June 2008

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Contact
6/1	4:00 PM	The Houston Chinese Alliance for China Earthquake Relief: Benefit Concert—To Wipe Away the Children's Tears	Sugar Creek Baptist Church	(281) 797-9281
6/2	10:00 AM	Ready Houston: TGCR VOAD Meeting	United Way	(713) 533-4909
	6:30 AM	Consulate General of Italy in Houston: 62nd Anniversary of the Italian Republic	Glissel School of Art	(713) 850-7520
6/3	8:30 AM	State Bank of India and Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP: "USA-India Business: Today and Tomorrow"	Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, LLP	(713) 226-1386
6/4	--	French American Chamber of Commerce: a Texas Delegation to the World Investment Conference in France (Through June 6)	La Baule, France	(713) 960-0575
	6:00 PM	Houston World Affairs Council: The United States and Germany — Common Values, New Challenges	The Junior League	www.hwac.net
6/5	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: June Meeting—Dialogue on Immigration, the Economic and Social Impact	Hilton Americas Hotel	jreese@houston.org
	6:00 PM	South Asian Chamber of Commerce: Gala—Building Bridges	Westin Oaks Galleria Hotel	(713) 247-9600



6/6	--	Houston Children's Chorus: Performance Tour of China (through June 15)	China	plawson@houstonchildren.org
6/7	9:00 AM	Asian/Pacific American Community: Bus Tours: Cuisine	City of Houston	(713) 784-1112
	9:00 AM	City of Houston: 2008 Hurricane Workshop	George R. Brown Convention Center	www.hurricaneworkshop.com
	10:00 AM	City of Houston: Foreclosure Prevention Fair	George R. Brown Convention Center	(713) 868-7015
6/8	10:30 AM	Italian Culture Center: Italian Mass and Pasta Lunch	Italian Culture Center	(713) 524-4222
	--	French-American Chamber of Commerce: UEFA Euro 2008 (Through June 29)	The Firkin & Phoenix	www.facchouston.com
6/11	11:30 AM	Asian Chamber of Commerce: June Monthly Luncheon	Westin Oaks Hotel	(713) 782-7222
	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: State of Transportation in Texas luncheon	The Houstonian Hotel	swoods@houston.org
6/12	8:00 AM	Ready Houston: Ft. Bend Pan Flu Tabletop Exercise	Safari Texas Ranch	(713) 533-4909
	8:30 AM	British American Business Council / Sam Houston State University: How to Manage Problem Employees	Sam Houston Memorial Museum	info@babchouston.org
	9:00 AM	Houston Minority Business Council: 'Work Smarter, Be More Productive' Seminar	Houston Minority Business Council	www.hmbc.org
	11:30 AM	Houston World Affairs Council: Building Peace—The Way Forward for the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Westin Galleria Hotel	www.hwac.net
	3:00 PM	Rice University: Job Fair	Rice Memorial Center-Grand Hall	http://jobs.rice.edu
6/16	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: US-Korea Free Trade Agreement Luncheon	Greater Houston Partnership, Board Room	jtan@houston.org
6/17	11:30 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Lunch and Learn—Hiring "Smart"	University of Houston Small Business Center	pthomas@houston.org
	4:00 PM	Ready Houston: Spiritual and Emotional Care Training	Interfaith Ministries	(713) 533-4909
	6:00 PM	Houston World Affairs Council: South Southeast—An Illustrated Lecture	The Junior League	www.hwac.net
	6:00 PM	Italian Culture Center: Dine Around	Azzarelli's Restaurant	(713) 524-4222
6/18	11:00 AM	British American Business Council / Travelex Global Business Payments Houston Executive Forum: Check to ACH Conversion Saves Times and Money	Hotel Indigo	Mike.Faherty@travelexamericas.com

6/18	--	Ready Houston: Biosecurity Summer Institute	Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness	(713) 533-4909
	—	City of Houston: Delegation from Singapore (Through June 20)	City of Houston	(832) 393-0851
6/19	6:30 PM	Taiwan Inkeeper's Association of Greater Houston: 17th Annual Membership Gala	Kim Son Restaurant	(713) 783-8388
6/20	6:00 PM	Japan-America Society of Houston: Mid-year 'Meet-n-Greet'	Main Atrium of JASH Building	(713) 963-0121
6/21	8:00 AM	Ready Houston: Community Emergency Medication Center Training	Baha'i Center	(713) 533-4909
	9:00 AM	Asian / Pacific American Community: Bus Tours: Markets	City of Houston	(713) 784-1112
6/22	--	Houston International Trade Development Council, Inc: 2008 Trade Mission to Ghana (Through June 30)	Ghana	(281) 378-3021
6/23	--	Ready Houston: Gulf Coast Severe Storm & Hurricane Preparedness Seminar	Rice University	(713) 533-4909
6/24	5:30 PM	Greater Houston Partnership: 2008 B2B Astros Networking Event	Minute Maid Park	pthomas@houston.org
	6:00 PM	French-American Chamber of Commerce: 2nd Green Initiative Networking	The Tasting Room - Uptown Park	events@gacctexas.com
	--	City of Houston: Delegation from Istanbul, Turkey (Through June 28)	City of Houston	(832) 393-0851
	--	Ready Houston: Community Emergency Medication Center Training	Interfaith Ministries	(713) 533-4909
6/25	6:00 PM	French-American Chamber of Commerce: YPN Cheese Tasting	13° Celsius	ypg@wachouston.org
6/26	11:45 AM	Greater Houston Partnership: Thought Leader Series - Healthcare	Hotel ZaZa	jreese@houston.org
	7:15 PM	Italian Culture Center: Italian Film: "Ho Voglia di te"	Italian Culture Center	(713) 524-4222
6/28	3:30 PM	British American Business Council / Royal Bank of Scotland: The Royal Bank of Scotland BABC Ascot Day—Hats on for a Royal Day at the Races	Sam Houston Race Park	info@babchouston.org

The following events are hosted by international partner-cities of Houston:

6/10-12	DMG World Media: Global Petroleum Show 2008	Calgary, Canada	www.petroleumshow.com
6/15-19	Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and the State Council's Office of Revitalizing the Northeast: The 19 <sup>th</sup> International China Harbin Fair for Trade and Economic Development	Harbin, China	eng@ichtf.com

6/18-23	Shandong Provincial Government: Invest in Shandong, China 2008	Jinan City, China	yance@trade.gov.cn
6/24-26	The U.S. Department of Energy, its Prime Contractors and the Veterans Corporation: 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Conference	San Antonio, Texas	www.smallbusiness-outreach.doe.gov
7/10-18	Philippine Department of Tourism: 4 <sup>th</sup> Ambassadors/Consuls General & Tourism Directors Tour to the Philippines	The Philippines	(312) 782-2475
7/22	Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual International Business Opportunity Conference	Belize City, Belize	www.tricountyblackchamber.org
8/26-29	Offshore Northern Seas Exhibition 2008	Stavanger, Norway	www.ons.no
9/12	Ettablissement Public pour l'Amenagement de la region de La Defense: World Business Districts Network—Treaty Ratification Conference	Paris, France	(33) (1) 4145-5827
9/15-18	Rio Oil and Gas 2008: Expo and Conference	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	www.idp.org.br
9/24-27	World Economic Forum: 2008 Summer Davos	Tianjin, China	www.weforum.org
10/29-31	SINOPEC: Sinopec International Technical Conference on Refinery Catalyst	Beijing, China	www.sitcrc.com

### Opportunities and Resources

- Japan-America Society of Houston, Japanese Language Classes  
Contact: (713) 963-0121, info@JASHouston.org
- Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Mayor's Summer Youth Conservation Corps  
Contact: (832) 393-8126

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